

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-10, 12, 15-18 and 19 have been amended. New claim 22 has been added. No claims have been canceled. All other claims remain the same. Full consideration of the claims as now presented is requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 7-13, 16 and 18-21.

Claims 1, 5-6, 15, 17 and 19 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1 and 17 have been further amended to remove the subject matter regarding use of the ionic as a phase transfer catalyst as the R'SO₄ group remains broadly defined.

Claims 2 and 17 have been amended to add the subject matter of a "phosphonium", which is also present in original claim 3.

Allowed claims 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16 have been amended to add the allowed subject matter regarding use of the ionic liquid as a phase transfer catalyst. This amendment is necessitated due to removal of the same subject matter from claim 1 from which claims 7, 9, 10, 12, and 16 depend.

Allowed claim 18 has been amended to add the subject matter regarding use of the ionic liquid as a phase transfer catalyst. This amendment is necessitated due to removal of the same subject matter from claim 17 from which claim 18 depends. Claim 18 has also been amended to replace "anion" with "R'SO₄" to correct an antecedent basis issue.

New claim 22, which depends from claim 18, has been added to more specifically define the cation. The subject matter of claim 22 was taken directly from claim 3.

Claims 1-6, 14, 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kang et al. (of record). Insofar as it may apply to the present claims, this rejection is traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to remove the subject matter regarding use of the ionic liquid as a phase transfer catalyst. There is no disclosure or suggestion by Kang et al. of the use of the claimed ionic liquid as a solvent, solvent additive, extraction solvent, heat carrier, or heat carrier additive. Moreover, Kang et al. do not suggest or disclose use of an ionic liquid compound, wherein R'SO₄ is other than methyl sulfate, as a phase transfer catalyst. Kang

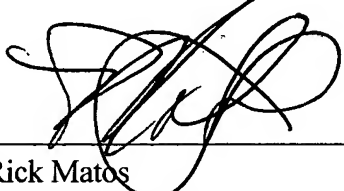
et al. would not be motivated to use the ionic liquid, as they specifically employ conventional solvents in their reactions (pg. 426-427).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-6, 14, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kang et al. have been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

In view of all the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have made a diligent effort to move the claims to allowance by amending the claims and present supportive argumentation. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in form for allowance and request an early notice of allowance therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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